

Touring Afghanistan: re-building the future

Story and photos by Sgt. Stephanie Hall
4th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – When Mary Jo Myers, wife of Gen. Richard Myers, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, visited Afghanistan Wednesday, she never expected to find grief and desperation as well as new beginnings and hope.

She toured the overfilled, under-funded Rabia Balkhi Hospital and found the need for medical supplies and aid, and she toured the ragged dorm rooms of the Allah Uddin Orphanage and found the need for better education and funding, she said.

But when she toured the Bagram Air Field U.S. Hospital and Gardez, a small outpost in South Eastern Afghanistan, she found Afghanistan's string of hope growing in thickness and strength with the help of coalition forces and international assistance.

At her first stop, the U.S. hospital on Bagram, she was guided around through a maze of hospital tents to the many sections and told about the services the hospital provides. When she asked about whom the hospital treated, she was shown the Intensive Care Unit. There she was shown evidence of the devastation Afghans live with on a daily basis. The doctors there showed her a patient, an Afghan soldier, who jumped out of his vehicle to escape a rocket-propelled grenade, and ran right into a minefield.

"He lost a leg, and a whole lot more," said Col. Judy Tracey, head nurse of the 452nd Combat Support Hospital.

Myers was also shown the Intermediate Care Ward where patients, mostly local nationals, were on the road to recovery after being treated at the hospital.



Mary Jo Myers, right, talks with Maj. Susan M. Palmer who is caring for a young Afghan patient at the Bagram Air Base U.S. Hospital.

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School opening helps start the rebuilding process

Story and photo by Pfc. Kelly Hunt
4th Public Affairs Detachment

Bagram, Afghanistan – A school opening celebration in Shoki yesterday drew in a crowd containing hundreds of students, local elders, dignitaries and military personnel. The group was gathered to welcome the

new addition, thank those who contributed to its building and to celebrate education being reintroduced into the community.

"It is our pleasure as the United States, Coalition Forces, to help you rebuild this school so that Afghan children will have the opportunity to learn unlike many of their parents," said Col. McNeely, Base Operations Commander, when he spoke to the at-

tendees of the ceremony.

Allah Mohammad School, the new facility, will house more than a thousand students and will address teachings to children of various ages. The teachers at the school will be local elders who are highly respected within the community.

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



Saddam's daughters Rana, left, and Raghad

Saddam's daughters given safe haven in Jordan

AMMAN, Jordan — Saddam Hussein's two eldest daughters arrived in Jordan in recent days as guests of King Abdullah, the Jordanian information minister said Thursday.

The women, Raghad, 35, and Rana, 33, brought with them their nine children and were at an undisclosed location in Amman. The two sisters sought and were granted government sanctuary, a source close to the sisters said. Saddam has a third daughter, Hala.

Information Minister Nabil Sharif said the kingdom "carried out this move purely on humanitarian reasons."

"They are the guests of the country and the guests of his majesty," he said. "Being guests, they are welcome to stay, they are welcome to move on. But my impression is that they are in Jordan to stay."

Neither Raghad nor Rana were being sought by American forces, who do not believe they are likely to know the whereabouts of their father.

They have been estranged from their father for some time. In 1995, they defected to Jordan with their husbands — Hussein and Saddam Kamal.

From Jordan, the brothers called for a revolution, and Saddam Kamal revealed Iraqi weapons secrets to U.S., British and Jordanian officials.

Six months later, their father-in-law lured them back to Iraq with promises of forgiveness. Once they arrived, however, they were killed in a four-hour shootout in a house near Baghdad believed to have been orga-

nized by Uday and Qusay at their father's request.

Since then, Saddam's widowed daughters had been held under virtual house arrest in Iraq.

Poindexter to resign following terror futures flap

WASHINGTON — Retired Adm. John Poindexter, who created a firestorm this week with his plan to create a futures market that would capitalize on predicting terror attacks, will resign in coming weeks from his post at the Pentagon, a senior defense official said Thursday.

The official said the research that Poindexter and his Total Information Awareness program (TIA) were conducting had become just too "unorthodox."

Poindexter, a central figure in the Iran-Contra scandal during the Reagan administration, had been causing a stir since he returned to the Pentagon in 2002 to head up the TIA research program to track terrorist activity.

But calls for his resignation intensified this week after his latest project — which would have allowed investors to profit by correctly predicting terrorist attacks, assassinations and overthrows of regimes — became public.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said it only took him an hour to scrap a program once he read it.

"It was pretty clear to me it ought to have been canceled, so I did so," Rumsfeld told reporters. "Even if it had been a brilliant idea, which I doubt, it would not have been able to function in the environment that it was created."

Poindexter was Reagan's national security adviser when the Iran-Contra scandal broke. He and one of his aides, Oliver North, began electronically destroying more than 5,000 e-mail messages in the memory banks of the White House computer system. They apparently didn't know the messages were still retrievable from the e-mail system's backup tapes.

Investigators from the FBI and the Tower Commission subsequently used the tapes to reconstruct the Iran-Contra scandal.



North Korean leader Kim Jong Il has been demanding a nonaggression pact with the United States.

U.S.: N Korea nuke talks on track

WASHINGTON — An agreement in principle has been reached for a new round of talks with North Korea aimed at shutting down its nuclear weapons program, a senior Bush administration official has said.

In an "encouraging sign," the U.S. has heard through third-country contacts, including Russia, that the North Koreans have agreed to the U.S. demand that the talks be multilateral, not bilateral as Pyongyang had long insisted, the official said.

Earlier Thursday the Russian Foreign Ministry said North Korea had confirmed to them it was willing to take part in six-party negotiations.

"The details — the date, place and modalities — need to be worked out," the official said on condition of anonymity.

Asked if that meant the North Koreans had agreed in principle to the first round of talks since April, the official said, "yes."

U.S. officials and Asian diplomats previously indicated that a second round of talks would likely happen in late August or early September in Beijing. But they noted that could change.

Washington has been pushing for multilateral talks to include South Korea, Japan, China and Russia, to ensure the strength of any future agreement.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Il said he wanted talks with only the United States, and has demanded economic aid for his starving country, as well as a nonaggression pact with the United States, in exchange for shutting down its nuclear weapons program.

Bosnia unites with Coalition Forces for ANA aid

KABUL, Afghanistan – Recently, Bosnia became the latest country to donate military equipment and supplies for the Afghan National Army (ANA). The shipment, arriving on a leased AN-124 cargo plane, contained much needed clothing, mortars, machine guns, and ammunition. Nearly 20 countries have donated equipment and supplies totaling more than \$40 million.

Almost every week, soldiers and civilians work together to offload pallets of supplies arriving at the Kabul International Airport.

As load after load comes off each aircraft, it becomes readily apparent the level of commitment the coalition is dedicated to providing the ANA.

Items that are still in vast need include personal care items for the soldiers along with uniforms, sleeping bags, blankets, pillows, backpacks, load-bearing vests, mess kits, and boots.

A senior official at the Kabul Military Training Center stated the people of Afghanistan and the ANA are grateful for the continued international support without which it would be much harder to equip, train, and sustain the soldiers who are providing security for the Afghan people.

A new group of 650 to 700 men arrive for training every 10 weeks at the KMTC; and they all need the basic supplies required by soldiers in all armies. The ANA now has over 4,500 soldiers serving on active duty in the Central Corps, with the 11th Kandak Battalion scheduled to complete basic training next month.

Donations such as these are critical to the success of the ANA and the future of Afghanistan. Each donation takes the ANA closer to their goal of becoming a professional force of which their country can be proud.

(Information from CJTF-180 Press Release)

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR Building: "Friday After Next." Craig and Day Day have finally moved out of their parents houses and into their own crib. The cousins work nights at a local mall as security guards...



Tomorrow's movie will be "Blue Streak."

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Saturday
Bagram:	Mostly clear H: 102F L: 75F	Dusty H: 100F L: 75F
Kandahar:	Dusty H: 109F L: 84F	Dusty H: 104F L: 84F
Kabul:	Dusty H: 99F L: 70F	Dusty H: 99F L: 70F
Uzbekistan:	Clear H: 105F L: 65F	Clear H: 100F L: 62F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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She was amazed at the efficiency of the hospital staff despite working under limited conditions, she said.

The hospital showed Myers the reasons why it is so vitally important for the U.S. to be in Afghanistan, and how dedicated the hospital staff is despite being so far from home, said Myers.

Her next stop, a Provincial Reconstruction Team outpost in Gardez, showed Myers the possibilities for Afghanistan's future. Representatives from the U.S. Army Civil Affairs team, the Cooperative Medical Assistant team and the United Nation's High Commissioner for Refugees showed Myers how the U.S., international, and local agencies are working together to improve Afghan life out in the provinces.

The UNHCR is "mandated to assist (returning Afghans) from Pakistan and Iran and support their reintegration back home," said Morelli Alessandra, head of the UNHCR at Gardez. "Some of them have been displaced for 23 years." So far, there have been more than two million returnees, said Alessandra. "That's an average of 2,000 returnees a month."

Accommodating so many returnees has proven challenging, but not impossible, said Alessandra.

The organizations in Gardez focus on everything from purifying the water and vaccinations to veterinary care, and it is their job to research, organize and implement plans to improve on in these areas.

The necessity to improve sanitation and



Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Roberts, 124th Regional Training Institute, explains how he was injured to Myers.

basic health care were the two topics talked about most. Vaccinations for the Afghans and their livestock have been ongoing, and water sanitation is a project heavily hit on by the organizations at Gardez.

"There is optimism here," said Morelli Alessandra, head of the UNHCR at Gardez. "We are making a difference."

The outpost in Gardez has only been in place a little over six months, but "it seems like improvements are growing by leaps and bounds," said Myers. "If you can see the difference in a matter of months, then there is definite hope."

What amazed Myers most is the dedication and sacrifices many of the people at Gardez are willing to make in order to help

their fellow man. She was told about a veterinarian who sold his practice in order to help out, and a soldier who took a reduction in rank just to be where he was needed most.

"The one thing that came to mind: man's humanity to man," said Myers. "We all know about man's inhumanity to man, but to see man's humanity is amazing."

"Right now I feel like they'll be able to make a difference and be a part of history and helping Afghanistan rebuild itself," said Myers.

Myers said that Afghanistan "was a totally different world even thirty years ago." She said that Afghanistan has seen a lot of devastation, but with the help of local, U.S., coalition and international aid, "I think there's hope."



A crowd containing hundreds of local children, elders and military personnel gathered at Allah Mohammad school to celebrate the opening.

SCHOOL, from Page 1

The opening of this school is one more step toward the Coalition Forces' and local populations' goal of rebuilding Afghanistan and improving the quality of life for the local nationals.

"Getting a higher education (into the area) again is the first step in rebuilding the country," said Staff Sgt. Todd Hartejen, 407th Civil Affairs Battalion. Having children learn again is the most significant step in rebuilding the school. This is the groundwork, he said.

This area has seen over 23 years of war, Hartejen said, and many buildings were destroyed during that time, including the schools.

"This is the groundwork of getting the people back on their feet again," he added.

The most critical element in rebuilding the country is the Afghan people, said McNeely. "We will require the unity of the Afghan people to rebuild Afghanistan."



Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

Oklahoma sits atop of the preseason poll

ESPN — Oklahoma, Ohio State and Miami, teams that have won the last three national championships, top the *ESPN/USA Today* Coaches' Top 25 preseason poll.

Oklahoma, which hasn't been ranked as the preseason No. 1 in any poll since 1987, earned 29 first-place votes to edge Ohio State (28 first place votes) and No. 3 Miami (five). Texas and Kansas State round out the top five, marking the first time in the history of the coaches' poll that three teams from the same conference are ranked in the top five.

The Sooners had 1,514 points to Ohio State's 1,495. The Buckeyes beat Miami in double overtime in last season's national championship game, preventing the Hurricanes from a repeat.

Auburn, which received the only other No. 1 vote, is sixth, followed by Michigan, Southern California, Georgia and Virginia Tech.

This marks the first time since 1985 that Florida State — ranked No. 12 — did not start the season in the top 10 and the first time since 1990 that Florida — No. 21 — didn't make the top 10 cut. The Seminoles were in the 2000 national championship game, their last of three straight appearances, which they lost to Oklahoma.

Pittsburgh is No. 11, followed by the Seminoles, Maryland, North Carolina State, LSU, Tennessee, Virginia, Notre Dame, Washington and Wisconsin. The Gators are followed by Purdue, Arizona State and Oklahoma State, with Colorado State and Penn State tied for 25th.

Noticeably absent from the rankings is Nebraska, which is fifth among others receiving votes. The lowest the Huskers had been ranked in a preseason coaches' poll since USA Today first headlined the rankings in 1991 was 15th that same year. Since it is unlikely Nebraska will be ranked in *The Associated Press* preseason writers' poll, this might be the first time since 1969 the Huskers will

be unranked in the preseason.

Schools that were ranked at the end of last season but are unranked to start 2003 are Iowa (No. 8), Washington State (No. 10), Boise State (No. 12), Marshall (No. 19), West Virginia (No. 20), Colorado (No. 21) and TCU (No. 22).



Carlton Dotson is accused of killing Baylor basketball player and former teammate Patrick Dennehy. Dotson said in an interview he acted in self-defense. He also said voices in his head prompted him to do it.

Sports on local Armed Forces Network TV

Saturday's schedule (AFN Sports)

- Buick Open (live) 0030Z, 0500L
- Boston at Baltimore (live) 0330Z, 0800L
- Yankees at Oakland (live) 0630Z, 1100L
- 2003 Bassmaster Classic (tape delayed) 1130Z, 1600L
- American Bowl: Jets vs Tampa Bay (live) 1330Z, 1800L
- NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series (tape delayed) 1730Z, 2200L
- Buick Open (live) 2330Z, 0400L

Sunday's schedule (AFN Sports)

- 2003 Bassmaster Classic (live) 0230Z, 0700L
- NASCAR Busch Series (live) 0430Z, 0900L
- Weetabix Women's British Open (tape delayed) 0730Z, 1200L
- U.S. Men's Gymnastics (tape delayed) 0900Z, 1330L
- Horse Racing: Whitney Handicap (tape delayed) 1130Z, 1600L
- White Sox at Seattle (live) 1430Z, 1900L
- Dodgers at Atlanta (live) 2130Z, 0200L



Dotson suggests he acted in self-defense

WACO, Texas — The former teammate accused of killing Baylor basketball player Patrick Dennehy suggested in a jailhouse interview that he acted in self-defense and said he has been hearing voices, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

"I thought he was my friend but he betrayed me," Carlton Dotson told *The Dallas Morning News* in a copyright story in Thursday's editions. "If someone points a gun at you and shoots and it doesn't go off, what would you do? If someone is pointing a gun at you and they start putting more bullets into the gun, what would you do?"

Asked what he did, Dotson, only laughed and did not answer, Dennehy had been missing about six weeks when his decomposed

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body was found Friday night in a grassy field four miles from the Baylor campus. Investigators had been searching for the 21-year-old at nearby gravel pits, a site police say Dotson provided to them after his July 21 arrest.

Dotson told FBI agents that he shot Dennehy after the player tried to shoot him, according to the arrest warrant affidavit. A preliminary autopsy report released Wednesday said Dennehy was killed by gunshot wounds to the head and listed homicide as the cause of death.

The U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms traced the ownership of a gun found near Dennehy's body, said Mark Curtin, a spokesman in the Austin office. He declined Wednesday to reveal those results.

Dotson told the Morning News that after he moved out of Dennehy's apartment, his friend often gave him rides.

"I wish I wouldn't (have) gotten into the truck that day," he said, declining to elaborate.

Dotson said his life has been threatened and that he has been hearing voices that say, "We are many. We are strong. We are behind you. We support you. We are ready for war ... a spiritual war." He also confirmed that Baylor paid for him to see a Waco therapist because of his increasingly erratic behavior.

The newspaper said Dotson also related a confusing story about meeting someone in Texas named Roman who told him he would be able to do miraculous things. At the end of the 10-minute session, Dotson asked for prayers.

Golden Nugget, Miller to go to Denver

DENVER — Andre Miller will soon be a Denver Nugget.

The Los Angeles Clippers have decided they will not match the Nuggets' offer for the free agent guard, Nuggets spokesman Eric Sebastian said Thursday. The Clippers had until midnight ET to do so.



Andre Miller

A Clippers spokesman said the team had no immediate comment.

The Nuggets signed Miller to a six-year, \$51 million offer sheet earlier this month. The offer for the four-year NBA veteran includes a \$10 million signing bonus and performance bonuses that could push its total value to more than \$55 million.

The Nuggets tied Cleveland for the worst record in the league at 17-65 and lost leading scorer and rebounder Juwan Howard in free agency. But they have a good, young core group of players.

Miller was one of the top free agent targets for the Nuggets, who have \$18 million in salary cap space for next season.

Denver has struggled at the point guard since Nick Van Exel was traded to Dallas in February 2002, with eight players filling that spot last season.

Miller would give the Nuggets instant stability at the point.

He led the league in assists with Cleveland in 2001-02, averaging 10.9 along with 16.5 points per game. Miller struggled with injuries last season after being traded to the Clippers and his average dropped to 13.6 points and 6.7 assists.

McDougle agrees to incentive-laden deal

ESPN — The Philadelphia Eagles on Thursday afternoon reached agreement with first-round draft choice Jerome McDougle, ESPN.com has learned, striking a deal that successfully ends the camp holdout of the former University of Miami defensive end.

As the 15th player selected overall, McDougle, 24, is expected to challenge quickly for playing time on a defensive front that lost standout end Hugh Douglas to Jacksonville in free agency.

McDougle will be used to help compensate for the loss of Douglas' pass rush skills and should immediately contribute in the Eagles' "nickel" packages.

McDougle will sign a six-year contract that voids to five seasons if he merely reaches the standard minimum playtime thresholds established by the league. The "base" contract is worth \$8.542 million but can escalate to \$12.592 million if McDougle were to trigger all of the escalators. Over a five-year period, McDougle could earn more than several of the players chosen ahead of him.

The initial signing bonus for the deal is \$3 million, with a second-tier option bonus of \$2,662,500 and a reporting bonus of \$460,000. So the total bonus package is worth a bit more than \$6.122 million. The base salaries are \$225,000 (2003), \$305,000 (2004), \$475,000 (2005), \$625,000 (2006) and \$790,000 (2007).

In two full seasons with the Hurricanes, McDougle started 21 games and had 110 tackles, 13 sacks, 67 quarterback pressures, six pass deflections and four forced fumbles.

"Look on the bright side, this could count as a swim qualification."

"Four seconds, that's great sir, but time over target isn't a factor in this test."



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By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support

Airballs crossword

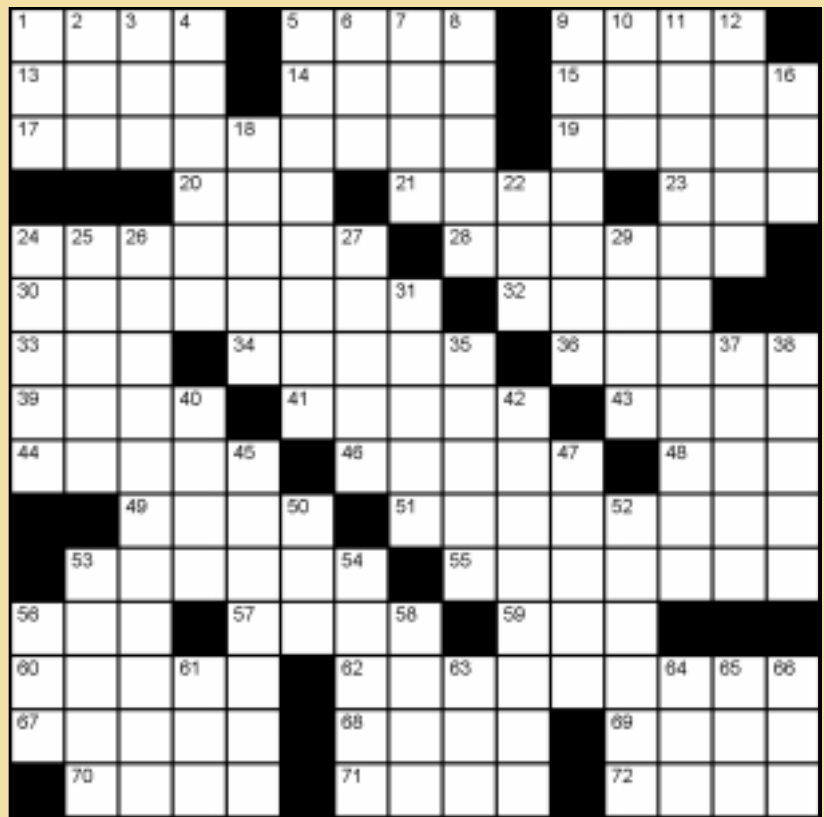
(Courtesy of QUIZLAND.com)

Across

1. Publisher ___-Davis
5. Beggar's duds
9. Places to enjoy pints
13. Love personified
14. Baldwin of film
15. China's Zhou ___
17. List of choices on a computer, maybe
19. Be skeptical of
20. Nitrogen, for instance
21. High: Prefix
23. Loop trains
24. Economic warfare tactic
28. Track down
30. Bald as a ___ ball
32. Army chutist, briefly
33. ___-mo (replay option)
34. Rating units
36. Fedora parts
39. Slaughter in baseball
41. Inventor Howe
43. Pig food
44. Katmandu's country
46. A natural, at the craps table
48. Pharmaceutical-approving org.
49. Love personified
51. Went off the track
53. Rural road surface
55. Give a new look to
56. Felix or Garfield
57. Skater's leap
59. "Uh-uh!"
60. Backup strategy
62. Top draw at a concert
67. Fend off
68. Intro to culture?
69. ___ Scotia lox
70. Campbell of "Scream"
71. Easy victory
72. Had down pat

Down

1. Microwave, slangily



2. "Editorially speaking," in cyber-shorthand
3. Vain fellow
4. Cost-conscious
5. Seaport of Kent, England
6. Libation served at 9-Across
7. Filmdom's Rowlands
8. Racing shell
9. Human-powered taxi
10. Numero ___
11. Burl Ives hit
12. Fancy fur
16. Part of TGIF
18. Arch of Triumph site
22. Blouse or shirt
24. Buddy of "Barnaby Jones"
25. Winnie-the-Pooh's creator
26. Collection of outtakes, perhaps
27. Some graduate exams
29. Terminal listings: Abbr.
31. Like prunes and raisins
35. Passbook holder
37. Runway walker
38. Sam the sleuth
40. ___ Lee cakes
42. "The Three Princes of ___" (fairy tale)
45. Like a cute puppy, say
47. Twangy, as speech
50. Driver's license datum
52. "___, therefore I am"
53. Ancient Greek physician
54. "The Merry Widow" composer Franz
56. EMT specialty
58. Toy brick brand
61. Carson City's state: Abbr.
63. Tattoo place
64. "Smoking or ___?"
65. Adam's madam
66. Like steak tartare

Solutions will be posted in Saturday's Freedom Watch